

House at 816 Dayton Street
Cincinnati
Hamilton County
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2200-C

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OHIO,
CINCINNATI,
49.

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. OH-2200-C

HOUSE AT 816 DAYTON STREET

Location:

816 Dayton Street, Cincinnati,
Hamilton County, Ohio

Within the Dayton Street Historic District, USGS
Covington Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 16.713800.4332700, 16.713780.4332230,
16.713250.4332410 and 16.713110.4332750

Present Owner:

William Weathersby

Present Occupant:

William Weathersby

Present Use:

Private Dwelling

Significance:

This is a large, elegant house, typical of the more costly later nineteenth century houses built in Cincinnati. It is one of several such houses built at about the same time in what is now designated the Dayton Street Historic Interest Area, and is important as part of the architectural context of its time and place.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The house stands on a parcel of land originally sold on October 13, 1794 to Jonathan Dayton of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, for \$42,896.00 by John Cleves Symmes, who obtained the original patent for the Miami Purchase from the United States Congress. William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the United States, on October 1, 1818, as an executor of the estate of Symmes, and as then Governor of the Indiana Territory, re-negotiated the sale, inasmuch as the original deed was said to have been lost. In 1845, Salmon P. Chase, a prominent Cincinnati lawyer who was President Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury and later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, purchased several lots of land on Dayton Street, which included the land upon which the house stands. Because of the riots and fire of 1884, the records contained in the Hamilton County Court House were either partially or totally destroyed, thus making the present records an incomplete source of information. It is known from the remaining records that the property was purchased by Adolphus Smith from Rachel Hatch (nee Avery) for \$6,800.00 on December 19, 1866. Her father had subdivided land in the immediate area. Smith sold the property on December 28, 1868 to Elijah Meering for \$10,000.00. It was also on this date that Meering sold the property at 808 Dayton Street. The next recorded reference to the property indicates a Sheriff's sale on December 16, 1876 for \$17,100.00. John Hauck, who at one time owned the house immediately to the east, purchased the house for \$14,000 in 1890. Between the time of ownership by Hauck and the present, there have been numerous owners, none of whom has any claim to local or national prominence.

2. Date of erection: According to an appreciable increase in sale prices, as recorded in the deed books of Hamilton County, Ohio, it is deduced that the house was erected between 1866 and 1876.
3. Architect: Unknown
4. Alterations and additions: According to verbal statements by descendants of John Hauck, the present facade was erected during Hauck's ownership. It bears a strong resemblance to the house immediately to the east and is derived from the Italianate style which was locally popular in the immediate post-Civil War era.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the House:

Of the two names closely associated with this house, that of John Hauck is the best known. Of German birth, he came to Cincinnati in 1851 at the age of 22 and subsequently joined an uncle who was a brewer. By 1879 he was made sole owner of a brewery, The John Hauck Brewing Co., which he had helped to establish with John Windisch. The brewery itself remained in operation until the advent of Prohibition. Mr. Hauck distinguished himself in various enterprises, but his greatest achievement, aside from his brewery, was his rescue of the "Zoological Garden" from financial collapse. That effort placed the new Cincinnati Zoo on a firm foundation. He died on June 4, 1896. The other name associated with this house is that of Charles H. Heine who was born in Manchester, Michigan, on November 7, 1856. At the age of four he was brought to Cincinnati, where he was raised by his uncle, Louis Mehmer, a wholesale grocer. By 1881 Mr. Heine had incorporated his own wholesale grocery, The Charles H. Heine Company. After the death of his first wife in 1881, Mr. Heine married Emilie L. Hauck, a daughter of John Hauck. In addition to his own business, Mr. Heine was active in local financial and political circles. He died in 1894.

The records in the Hamilton County Court House do not indicate ownerships of the property by Heine. However, verbal recollections by the descendants of John Hauck support the fact that Heine lived on the premises after his marriage to Hauck's daughter. As a consequence, the house is locally referred to as the "Heine House."

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None known.
2. Bibliography:

The Cincinnati Enquirer, June 6, 1896.

The Cincinnati Post, June 5, 1896.

Grave, Charles T. Centennial History of Cincinnati, Vol. I.,
Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1904.

Harrow, Alvin. The Serene Cincinnatians.

Hauck Family Receipt Book, 1879-1881. Property of the Cincinnati
Historical Society.

History of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio. Nelson and Co., 1894

History of Cincinnati, Ohio. L. A. Williams and Co., 1881.

Deed Book References:

Adolphus Smith purchase: Deed Book 337, Page 176.

Elijah Meering purchase: Deed Book 362, Page 603.

Sheriff's sale: Deed Book 466, Page 388.

John Hauck purchase: Deed Book 684, Page 506.

Prepared by: Carl A. Saladino
Project Historian
National Park Service
August, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This structure is a very well preserved example of the typical three-bay side-hall plan houses found on Dayton Street.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This house is 25'-0" wide (three bays) and has two rectangular sections totalling 82'-0" in length. The front block is 2½ stories high. The rear wing has two stories.
2. Foundations: Brick and stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The walls are of red common brick with a cream colored limestone front.

4. Structural system, framing: Masonry bearing walls.
5. Porches, stoops: Stone front entrance steps. Covered porch at side service entrance.
6. Chimneys: Three brick chimneys with tile flues in exterior walls. One brick chimney in wall common to front and rear wings.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Recessed front entrance with stone architrave. The large paired exterior doors are wooden with two panels. The large paired inner wooden doors have long glass upper panels.
 - b. Windows: Double-hung one-over-one-light sash in facade and two-over-two-light sash elsewhere.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:
 - a. Basement: Numerous storage rooms and a laundry and furnace room.
 - b. First floor: Side-hall plan with two parlors on the east side (north parlor has a bay) separated from the dining room and kitchen by a service stair and side entrance hall.
 - c. Second floor: Two bedrooms of front block separated from two bedrooms at rear wing by a stair hall and bath.
 - d. Attic: Two rooms in front block with a stairwell between them.
2. Stairways: There are three stairways in the house. The main stairway rises from the first to the second floor along the side of the entrance hall. The service stair runs from the first to the second floor between second front parlor and dining room. The third stair goes only from the second floor to the attic rooms in the front block. Main stair and service stair have hardwood turned balusters and handrails.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Ceramic tile floors in the front entrance hall, dining room and kitchen. The remaining floors are 1½" hardwood boards with a stained and stenciled vine motif around the perimeter.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: The four-panel wooden doors and casings are painted and grained. There is a wide opening with double sliding doors between the two front parlors.
6. Decorative features and trim: There are wooden mantelpieces with mirrors over them, and ceramic tile surrounds and hearths, in the two parlors and dining room on the first floor. The two front parlor ceilings have raised plaster moldings and hand-painted figures.

7. Hardware: Door knobs and escutcheons are cast bronze with relief ornament.
8. Mechanical equipment: Combination gas and electric ornamental chandelier in front parlor is only remaining original fixture.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Located on the north side of Dayton Street, this house is among a group of late nineteenth century dwellings making up what is known as "Millionaires Row."
2. Outbuildings: There is a carriage house at the rear of the lot.

Prepared by: J. William Rudd
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
August, 1974

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These data are part of the documentation made during the 1974 Cincinnati Project undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Miami Purchase Association and City of Cincinnati. Records were made of a part of the Dayton Street Historic interest Area of the City of Cincinnati.

The project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The project supervisor was J. William Rudd of the University of Cincinnati. The project historian was Carl A. Saladino of the Ohio State University. The measured drawings for the project were prepared by architects Steven B. Kells (University of Cincinnati) and Richard Wyatt (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), and student assistant architects William Maxwell Miller (University of Pennsylvania) and Osbourne K. Simms III (University of Illinois, Chicago Circle). The photographs were taken by HABS photographer Jack E. Boucher in July 1982.